



Health Disparities Research LRP Expands Participation to Include all NIH Institutes and Centers

By: Omar McCrimmon, M.A.

Beginning September 1, 2019, participation in the Health Disparities Research (HDR-LRP) will be expanded to include all NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs). Previously, all HDR LRP applications were assigned to and reviewed by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). Applicants will now have the option of selecting one NIH IC for primary review assignment and, if desired, one additional IC for secondary review assignment. As a reminder, final review assignments for LRP applications is determined by the Division of Receipt and Referral, [Center for Scientific Review](#). Although an applicant's selection will be taken under consideration, it is not a guarantee of a desired assignment.

“We are excited about the expansion of the Health Disparities Research LRP. Not only does it allow for all NIH ICs to select from high quality health disparities research LRP applications, it will also encourages applicants to think about their research more broadly and consider what other NIH ICs priorities (besides NIMHD) may fit nicely with their research goals,” said Ericka Boone, Ph.D., Director, Division of Loan Repayment. “Each NIH IC has a health disparities research portfolio, so I encourage applicants to chat with an LRP program officer before submitting an application.”

As a reminder, the objective of the NIH Loan Repayment Programs is to recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals to careers in biomedical or biobehavioral research. Qualified health professionals who are engaging in NIH mission-relevant research for at least 20 hours per week at nonprofit or government institution, may be eligible to apply to the one of [the five extramural LRPs](#):

- **Clinical Research Extramural LRP:** Patient-oriented research conducted with human subjects;
- **Pediatric Research Extramural LRP:** Research that is directly related to diseases, disorders, and other conditions in children;
- **Health Disparities Research Extramural LRP:** Research that focuses on minority and other health disparity populations;
- **Contraception and Infertility Research Extramural LRP:** Research on conditions impacting the ability conceive and bear young; and,
- **Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds Extramural LRP:** Available to clinical investigators from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The LRP application cycle opens annually on September 1 and closes on November 15th. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review each [IC Mission and Research Priorities](#) statement and then contact one or more IC scientific LRP liaisons to discuss their research and career interests as it relates to the research and funding priorities of the selected IC. Research and funding priorities can change on a yearly

basis, so it is important that applicants contact a liaison – ideally in advance of the opening of the application cycle – to ensure appropriate understanding of IC priorities. You can find the list of NIH IC scientific LRP liaisons here: www.lrp.nih.gov/contact_us/contact_list.aspx.

For additional assistance, call or e-mail the LRP Information Center at 866-849-4047 (Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST) or lrp@nih.gov. You can also follow the NIH Division of Loan Repayment on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for more information and cycle updates.